

Karajia & Environment Awards for Children's Literature

Terms and Conditions | 2025

About the Awards

We believe the books we read shape us as people. They can spark our greatest ideas and adventures, change the way we experience the world, and even help us establish our values.

Launched in 2022, the Karajia Award for Children's Literature celebrates excellence in children's literature by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Island authors and/or illustrators, who honour Connection to Country and tell stories exploring land, community, culture and language. It is part of The Environment Award for Children's Literature, which has been promoting a love of nature in young people since it was established in 1994. That's 30 years of celebrating nature books!

Entered books can be shortlisted and finalists in both Awards.

Award eligibility

To be eligible for the **Environment Award for Children's Literature**, a book must comply with **all** of the following:

- published and released for the first time in 2024;
- available in Australia for purchase by the general public and stocked in bookstores; and
- not exclusively in an ebook format.

In addition to the above, to be eligible for the **Karajia Award for Children's Literature**:

- the author or illustrator must identify as being of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent.

The closing date for the 2025 Awards is **3 March 2025**. The form must be filled out by 3 March 2025 and the books received by 10 March 2025.



Award criteria

The Karajia and Environment Awards for Children's Literature caters for books with an implied readership under the age of 12. The Karajia and Environment Awards for Children's Literature will be awarded in three categories and is open to prose, poetry, graphic novels and comics and/or other forms.

Entries must fall into the following categories.

- 1) Picture books
- 2) Fiction books
- 3) Nonfiction books

Each year, judges (appointed by the Wilderness Society) assess the shortlisted entries according to specific criteria.

Environment Award for Children's Literature

- 1) Encourages a caring attitude towards the natural environment and/or promotes an awareness of environmental issues
- 2) Has originality of concept with engaging language appropriate for the theme, style and audience of the work, and quality design (including illustrations where applicable)

Karajia Award for Children's Literature

- 1) Promotes themes that honour Connection to Country and tell stories exploring land, community, culture and/or language
- 2) Includes originality of concept, engaging language appropriate for the theme and style of the work, and quality design (including illustrations where applicable)

Judges' decisions are final and no correspondence will be entered into.

Award conditions

Entering books in the Environment Award for Children's Literature is a two-step process:

- 1) Entrants must complete the online entry form available at:
wilderness.org.au/2025submissions
- 2) If entering a book in either the Karajia or Environment Awards, entrants must post seven (7) copies of the book to the address below. If entering a book to be judged for both Awards, entrants must post nine (9) copies of the book to:

The Karajia & Environment Awards for Children's Literature
c/o Lily Weinberg, The Wilderness Society



GPO Box 716
Hobart TAS 7001

By entering the Karajia and Environment Awards for Children's Literature, entrants agree that the Wilderness Society may:

- provide the information included on the entry form (including contact details) to the media for publicity purposes;
- re-publish book cover artwork for publicity purposes;
- use any/all of the seven (7) or nine (9) copies of the book submitted to the Award for general publicity purposes to promote the Award and/or the Wilderness Society;
- ask authors and illustrators to participate in events (virtual or in person) to promote their books and the Award, including Nature Book Week, which is held in October; and
- ask publishers, authors or illustrators for permission to use some of the book or all of the book in on and/or offline events (for example storytimes, or virtual read-alouds).

Award presentation

All shortlisted books will be promoted via the Wilderness Society's website (wilderness.org.au/eacl). Award winners will be announced on the website, and simultaneously through other channels, in October 2025.

Shortlisted and award-winning books will be supplied with front cover medallions (in digital format) which may be used to produce physical cover stickers (at the cost of the publisher) or incorporated into digital cover artwork for future print runs.

Award-winning books will be promoted by the Wilderness Society in a variety of ways. This may include (but is not limited to) publishing website articles and media releases, arranging for interviews with media outlets, and promotion through our social media networks.

Enquiries

Contact Lily Weinberg at lily.weinberg@wilderness.org.au